



**DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting**  
**Friday, August 14, 2015, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**AOC SeaTac Office**  
**SeaTac, WA**

## MEETING MINUTES

### Members Present:

Chair, Judge Steiner  
Judge Ahlf  
Judge Donohue  
Judge Fair  
Judge Gehlsen  
Judge Marinella  
Judge Meyer  
Commissioner Noonan  
Judge Ringus (non-voting)  
Judge Robertson  
Judge Robinson  
Judge Short  
Judge Svaren  
Judge Staab

### Guests:

Deena Kaelin - MCA  
Paulette Revoir - DMCMA  
Karen Campbell, Esquire - NJP  
Yvette War Bonnet, Esquire - NJP

### AOC Staff:

Ms. Vicky Cullinane  
Ms. Sharon R. Harvey  
Mr. Dirk Marler

### Members Absent:

Judge Burrowes  
Judge Garrow (non-voting)  
Judge Jasprica (non-voting)  
Judge Lambo (non-voting)

Judge David Steiner, District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) President, noted a quorum was present and called the DMCJA Board of Governors (Board) meeting to order at 12:31 PM. Judge Steiner asked attendees to introduce themselves.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### A. Minutes

The Board motioned, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2015 with corrections to the following:

(1) Mr. Larry Baker is from the Misdemeanant Corrections Association (MCA) and not the District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA), and

(2) the statement, "Judge Marinella mentioned funding received from Senate Bill (SB) 5454, which is an act relating to court operations, in which the state pays **one-half** of the salaries of district court judges and of elected municipal court judges, beginning July 1, 2006" should read, "Judge Marinella mentioned funding received from Senate Bill (SB) 5454, which is an act relating to court operations, in which the state pays **twenty-five percent** of the salaries of district court judges and of elected municipal court judges, beginning July 1, 2006." (emphasis added). See Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2015, Discussion, Strategy to Achieve 2015-2016 DMCJA Goals, Adequate Court Funding.

### B. Treasurer's Report

M/S/P to approve the Treasurer's Report.

C. Special Fund Report

M/S/P to approve the Special Fund Report.

1. *Legislative Committee*

Judge Meyer reported that the DMCJA Legislative Committee met the morning of August 14, 2015. DMCJA Membership legislative proposals were discussed and Committee members were assigned issues to research. Judge Meyer reported that the final 2015-2017 Legislative budget was not as good as the proposed House budget and not as bad as the proposed Senate budget. The three point eight million dollars provided for the courts of limited jurisdiction case management system (CLJ-CMS) will not be available until January 1, 2016. The Administrative Office of the Courts is using other resources until January 1, 2016. Judge Meyer also informed that the Committee briefly discussed the Superior Court Judges' Association's (SCJA) proposed Office of the Trial Court Policy and Research.

2. Rules

Judge Robertson reported that the DMCJA Rules Committee met on June 9, 2015 and April 22, 2015 and encouraged Board Members to read the Meeting Minutes, which are in the Board packet.

Trial Court Advocacy Board (TCAB)

Judge Steiner reported that the TCAB did not meet in July 2015. There was suggestion that the TCAB would terminate in light of the SCJA's proposed Office of the Trial Court Policy and Research.

JIS Report

Ms. Cullinane reported that the legislature appropriated \$3.8 million from the JIS fund for the CLJ-CMS Project for the 2015-2017 biennium. The legislature placed conditions on this funding via several provisos that include deadlines, reports to the legislature, and oversight by the executive branch Office of the Chief Information Officer. AOC also may not spend any money on the project until January 2016. But work on the CLJ-CMS Project will not stop. AOC will continue to work on the project using existing resources until the funding is available. The Court User Work Group (CUWG) and AOC staff will be working on documenting the requirements through the end of the year, so the funding delay will not have a large impact. Ms. Cullinane further stated that the CLJ-CMS Project will also benefit from the successes of the Superior Court Case Management System (SC-CMS) Project. The progress on that project will increase Legislative confidence in the AOC's ability to implement a statewide case management system.

Ms. Cullinane further addressed an issue regarding the Legislature's decision to fully fund the King County District Court (KCDC) data exchange initiative while funding the CLJ-CMS Project at less than what was requested. There were comments that \$600,000 in funding was lost from the CLJ-CMS Project and given to the KCDC data exchange. Additionally, there was concern that the Board voted to support the KCDC Project with the understanding that it would not impact funding for the CLJ-CMS Project. Ms. Cullinane stated that the CLJ-CMS Project is a priority for the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) and AOC. For this reason AOC requested that the funding for the KCDC Project come from General Fund dollars, and not from the Judicial Information System (JIS) Fund. The Legislature, however, decided to appropriate \$5.3 million from the JIS Fund for the KCDC Project.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

*DMCMA* – The District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) Representative, Ms. Paulette Revoir, reported that the DMCMA will hold fall regional trainings in October 2015. The trainings will be held on the east coast and west coast of Washington State. Ms. Carla Weaver, DOL Liaison, will provide a DOL update during these trainings. The DMCMA will hold its Annual Conference May 15-18, 2015 at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, WA.

*MCA* – The Misdemeanant Corrections Association (MCA) Representative, Ms. Deena Kaelin, reported that its Spring Conference was great. Judge Robinson presented on alternative sentences during the Conference. The MCA Academy continues to operate.

*AOC* – The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Representative, Mr. Dirk Marler, informed that the Annual Fall Conference will be held October 4-7, 2015 in Seattle, WA. The Conference will be a joint conference with the American Judges Association (AJA) and the National Association of State Judicial Educators (NASJE). Mr. Marler requested that DMCJA Board members send to him issues that they would like discussed at the annual business meeting. Mr. Marler expressed that the AOC is working on an extensive presentation for BJA regarding how the AOC is organized and interconnected. The AOC will present the information at the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) meeting on August 21, 2015. Mr. Marler expressed that the AOC is eager to offer information to the DMCJA Board. The AOC is also doing its best to make sure that the SCJA proposed Office of the Trial Court Policy and Research is not a distraction for AOC staff and the AOC will work through the situation. Mr. Marler also reminded the Board that the AOC has consistently included DMCJA leadership in its DMCJA support staff selection. Mr. Marler stated that he is available for questions regarding the AOC.

*BJA* – The Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Representative, Judge Ringus, informed that the BJA will meet on Friday, August 21, 2015, to discuss member goals, structure, purpose, and reasons for actions. The BJA will also discuss dues and Standing Committees. The new co-chair of the BJA is Judge Scott R. Sparks, *Kittitas County Superior Court*.

## **ACTION**

- A. Establishment of Yearly Plan for the Nominating Committee to Encourage Member Involvement

M/S/P for the DMCJA Nominating Committee to develop a plan to encourage member involvement.

## **DISCUSSION**

- A. Northwest Justice Project (NJP) Relicensing Initiative Presentation

M/S/P to make this discussion an action item at the September 3, 2015 Board Meeting regarding whether the DMCJA will support the NJP Relicensing Initiative as a concept.

NJP attorneys, Karen Campbell and Yvette War Bonnet, presented on the NJP Relicensing Initiative. Ms. Campbell informed that the NJP is not allowed to lobby because it receives federal funding. For this reason, the NJP is seeking another entity to push the statewide relicensing initiative forward. Ms. Campbell expressed that the relicensing proposal, which would enable individuals to get jobs, came from Summits, which took place in both eastern and western Washington. The Summits reveal the main barriers to relicensing are that tickets are in multiple jurisdictions, there is a lack of uniformity among courts, and the various collection practices. The solution from the NJP Summit was to (1) adopt a statewide program with uniform criteria and no ability for courts to opt out, (2) the ability for a driver to make a single payment, and (3) standard admission criteria and payment plan terms.

Ms. Campbell noted the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, which offers four hours of driver safety classes. Ms. Campbell stated that the proposed relicensing initiative would include a universal cashing system, which would preclude courts from opting out of the Program. The statewide relicensing program would not review court decisions. For instance, traffic infractions or criminal cases must go before a judge in order to check a defendant's status. An entity would collect payments and distribute them to courts in an equal

amount. Vermont and Minnesota relicensing programs were discussed regarding consideration for those with limited income.

The NJP Relicensing Initiative is based on the Spokane and Oregon Programs. Oregon, unlike Washington State, has a unified court system. Thus, no legislation was necessary to implement the program. Spokane has six jurisdictions participating in a relicensing program. The NJP would like a stakeholder's meeting to discuss the promotion of the NJP's relicensing initiative.

Judge Short requested the number of collections that exist in Spokane. Ms. Campbell stated that she would research and provide an answer. The issue of insurance was mentioned. There was also a suggestion to include collection agencies as stakeholders. The Board then decided to invite Mr. Howard Delaney, Spokane Court Administrator, in order to learn more about the Spokane Relicensing Program.

**B. Board Review of DMCJA Operational Rules and Modern Rules of Order**

This issue was rescheduled for the September 3, 2015 Board Meeting in the interest of time.

**C. Judicial College Funding Request**

M/S/P to donate fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500) to the joint reception.

**D. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) Liaison Position Vacancy**

This issue was rescheduled for the September 3, 2015 Board Meeting in consideration of time. At the next meeting, the Board will discuss whether the DMCJA Vice President should assume the DMCMA Liaison position.

**E. Ethics Advisory Committee Position Vacancy**

The Board discussed candidates for the Ethics Advisory Committee. There was a DMCJA Representative vacancy when Judge Joshua Grant retired on July 1, 2015.

**F. Board to Create a Public Outreach Committee to Educate Justice Partners**

Judge Steiner appointed Judge Gehlsen to be the Chair of the newly created task force known as the Public Outreach Committee.

**G. Whether a 2016 Special Fund Assessment is Necessary**

This topic was rescheduled for the September 3, 2015 meeting in the interest of time.

**H. Whether New Judges Should be Announced on the DMCJA Listserv**

This topic was rescheduled for the September 3, 2015 in the interest of time.

**INFORMATION**

Judge Steiner reported that Governor Inslee signed a Bill that provides for an additional Skagit County District Court Judge. He also mentioned that the YMCA Youth & Government sent thank you notes to the DMCJA, which are included in the Board packet.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Judge Steiner reported that the next DMCJA Board Meeting is Thursday, September 3, 2015, from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM, at the AOC Office in Olympia, WA. The Joint SCJA/DMCJA Meeting with Supreme Court Justices is September 3, 2015, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Temple of Justice, Olympia, WA. A reception at Justice Fairhurst's home will follow the Joint Meeting at 4:30 PM.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. The Board entered into an Executive Session to discuss the Superior Court Judges' Association's proposed Office of the Trial Court Policy and Research.